

SCRIPTURES FOR THE BLIND

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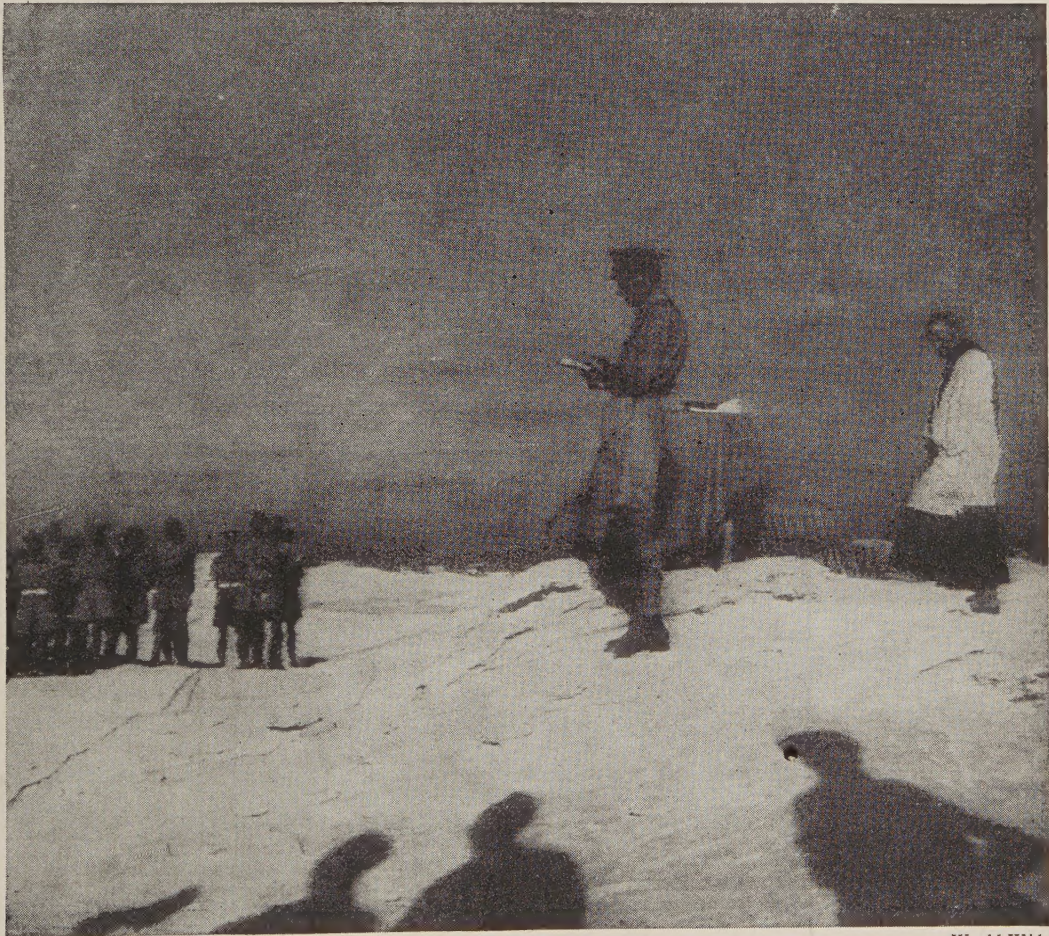
BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

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World Wide

GOD SPEAKS IN THE DESERT

General Bernard L. Montgomery, Commander of the British Eighth Army, reads the Bible to his troops at desert battle headquarters in observance of a national day of prayer. This photograph was radioed from Cairo to New York

TRANSLATION

A Crack in the Door

IN these tragic days Europe may be called the continent of closed doors. The rest of the world is not being allowed to know what is going on in most of the nations there under Axis control. One of the tightest closed doors is the one that hides from view the six million or more prisoners of war who languish behind the barbed wire of the prison camps in Germany. However, for the past two years and a half, it has been the rare privilege of the American Bible Society to minister to these men through a little crack in this door. This has been done through the cooperation of the Ecumenical Commission for Chaplaincy Aid to War Prisoners in Geneva, to whose staff the Society has added Mr. Olivier Béguin for this specific service. The process which makes possible this gracious and very important service is this: Mr. Béguin, on securing the name of some man in one of the camps who desires a Bible, sends him not one but three or four, with the suggestion that he distribute the others to his comrades who might appreciate them. It is not always whole Bibles, but more often Testaments or Gospel portions that are sent. Thus from a little nucleus are developed, in many of the camps, congregations of worshippers that not infrequently affect the spiritual life of the whole camp. One of the members of the Ecumenical Commission, Professor Jacques Courvoisier of Geneva, has been privileged to visit some of these camps, first in the summer of 1940, and again a year later. He reports after his second visit that there are now in most of the camps active Christian communities, which provide a spiritual home for church members and, in some cases, exert a wholesome influence upon the camp as a whole. Professor Courvoisier also reports that the Scriptures supplied by the American Bible Society arrive without difficulties, and are deeply appreciated. This is corroborated by Mr.

Béguin's files in the Geneva office, where the acknowledgment cards provided to the men to whom the parcels of books are sent reveal that ninety-five percent of the parcels are delivered and distributed in the camps.

The chief purpose of this brief report is to give to RECORD readers some excerpts from letters of acknowledgment which have slipped through the crack in the door from these unfortunate prisoners.

It is impossible for us, in our security and freedom, to comprehend the moral and spiritual heroism, for instance, that lies behind these words that came from a prisoner under date of May 28, 1942. He writes:

I have read with much pleasure your last letter, and beg you to transmit to those who sustain the parishes in captivity and who pray for the prisoners, our message of affection. . . . Here, in our camp, are thirty Protestants like myself whom a year of war and two of imprisonment have not succeeded in much weakening.

Another writes on June 7, 1942:

Is it possible for you to send us six or seven Bibles? Some comrades who have never taken seriously the life of the spirit, have been led to it here, and our little group would like to be able to meet their demands. We feel that our mission is unique.

In another poignant appeal of about the same date, a prisoner says:

Let me write you this card to ask you to please send me a Bible, which will sustain my faith and fortify us in God our Savior. We are two Protestant miners, exiled from our families. Dear friends, I hope you will think of us.

The growing interest in the Bible in the camps is revealed in many notes. We quote from two. One prisoner writes:

Will you have the kindness to send me Bibles and New Testaments. We have many requests now and are encouraged. It is a great joy to report that several comrades are turning to God and Christ.

(Continued on page 12)

A Prayer for Our Day

When the Word of God goes forth in war

O THOU Eternal Word of the Father, whom men who seek may find within the Holy Scriptures, we praise thee for this written revelation of thyself.

We thank thee, Lord, for the present vast opportunity to put this thy Book in the hands of rising millions of men. Bless thou the American Bible Society and all other Bible Societies and similar organizations dedicated to the high purpose of holding forth the Word of life to our men under arms. Awaken thy people to the urgency of this hour, in order that we may place thy Word in the possession of all the defenders of our sacred heritage of Christian liberty and justice and heavenly peace.

As thy Word goes forth, wilt thou bless it, that it may return unto thee laden with the souls of men. Open thou the hearts of the readers; bless the guidance given by chaplains and others of thy servants; quicken the loyalty of all of us to the call to share this gift.

May the day come in thy time, O Lord, when a knowledge of thee and thy revealed truth may cover the earth as the waters cover the sea; when wars shall cease to the ends of the earth, and the peace of God attend every soul; when the Word once more may come to dwell with us his children. Amen.

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution of the Holy Scriptures

Volume 88

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Number 1

Whose Book Is the Bible?

WHOSE book is the Bible? It is your book and my book. If we do not possess copies of our own, there is no one who can prevent us from getting a copy. If we have no money, there are hundreds of people who would be glad to present us with a Bible. For you and me, it is the most accessible book in the world.

The Bible is America's book. No nation on earth owes more to the Bible than the United States. The liberty in which she was conceived was learned from the pages of the Bible. For a century preceding the political birth of our nation, our colonial forefathers were developing a commonwealth around three institutions—the home, the school, and the church—in all of which the Bible was supreme. The result is a nation which, while far from being perfect, is more like the good Samaritan and less like the robber than any great nation of history.

The Bible is England's book. England is different from every other European nation, because she has had the Bible in her own tongue longer, and has taken the teachings of the Bible more deeply to heart, than any other nation of the Old World. When a chieftain from one of the outlying provinces of the British Commonwealth once asked Queen Victoria if there was any one thing that accounted for the power and resources of England, the queen promptly answered, "Yes, there is one thing: it is the Bible."

The Bible is becoming China's book. Although very few in her vast population of almost 500,000,000 people possess the Bible or any part of it, nevertheless China is deeply influenced in these days of her agony and rebirth by three factors. First, her great leaders, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and Madam Chiang, are daily students of the Bible, and are constructing their nation's so-called "New Life Movement" on its teachings; second, her great body of students who are in training for places of leadership in the New China have discovered in the New Testament a way of life that conforms to their ideals for China's social, economic, and political future; and third, the Chinese have read in the lives of the missionaries the abiding truths of the teaching

of Scripture, especially in the decision of the missionaries, when they were urged to return to their homelands, to choose rather to share the hazards of war, famine, and pestilence with their Chinese friends.

And so we might go round the world. A veteran missionary in India says that India cannot resist the story of the cross. The American Bible Society's distribution in Latin America last year exceeded by a third that of any other year, and might have been much larger if every outstretched hand could have been filled. The Bible is becoming Latin America's book in a new and vital way.

Whose book is the Bible? It is the **WORLD'S BOOK**. Long since published in all the great languages of the nations, faithful missionaries in Africa, Latin America, and elsewhere are diligently working on the translation of the Scriptures into still other languages. The latest available figures show that the whole Bible is now available in 184 languages, the New Testament in 229 more, and some lesser part of the Bible but enough for effective missionary work into 642 additional languages—making in all 1,055.

Whose book is the Bible? There is a still deeper sense in which the Bible may be called the **World's Book**. Wherever it is taken by messengers of the cross in the language of the hearts and homes of people, the people hear the voice of their God in its reading just as we do in English. About four years ago, when Rev. J. C. F. Robertson had charge of the Bible depot in Mukden, Manchuria, he received the following letter from a distant city written by a Christian Chinese:

Dear Sir, My son is going off to the big city to college. There he will study in English. Tell me, has the Bible yet been translated into English? If so, I should like to have you send me a copy in that language for my son.

The day of Pentecost was a day of prophecy looking toward that time when every man should have the exquisite experience of hearing the wonderful works of God in his own tongue. The Bible is the channel for this blessing. It is the rightful heritage of all men.

News from China—Occupied and Free

Vast changes are sweeping over tormented China, but one purpose holds fast—the Scriptures must be kept in circulation

by Eric M. North

THE repatriation of many Americans and British from Shanghai, this autumn, brought much longed-for news from the Bible House there. Letters, memoranda, reports, messages, have come through Dr. Ralph Mortensen, of the Lutheran Free Church, and Rev. A. M. Romig, of the Presbyterian Mission. From these varied sources is compiled this summary of conditions in mid-August in the section of China occupied by the Japanese.

There is the good news that the Bible House foreign staff—Secretary and Mrs. Hudspeth, Assistant Secretary and Mrs. Hobbs (now in Africa on the way home), and Mr. Hopkins, Miss Mooney, and Miss Polis—are well. Mr. and Mrs. Hudspeth expect to remain in Shanghai indefinitely, especially as it is continuing to be possible to keep in touch with the offices in Kalgan, Peiping, Tientsin, Tsinan, Hankow, and Canton, which are functioning, and to which Scriptures can be sent from time to time.

Mr. Hudspeth writes:

Generally speaking, life is not so difficult as one could imagine. It is gradually becoming more difficult, and by degrees money is becoming scarcer; but so far we have not endured anything that should be termed real hardship. Deprivation,—yes; but hardship,—no.

He adds that their principal deprivation is the lack of news from the homelands.

That, in these circumstances, work is being kept up is indicated by the figures of issues from the Shanghai Bible House from December 8, 1941, to August 14, 1942—9,293 Bibles, 9,024 Testaments, and 244,697 Gospels and other portions.

A most interesting turn of affairs in the Bible House is resulting from the changed relationships since December 8. It will be remembered that the

work of the American and British Bible Societies was united in China under the name "China Bible House," with a view to its integration with a national Chinese Bible Society. The constitutional convention of the latter met in 1937; but, before it could begin to operate, the Japanese attack on China took place. As under those circumstances the American and British staffs could more easily protect the work than the Chinese, the activity of the new society was postponed, and the China Bible House continued. Now the situation has changed again. American and British influence is no longer useful in protecting the work, but is a danger to it; for the Japanese are determined to eliminate Western authorities from religious as well as other enterprises in China. It is known that in some areas Chinese churches of different denominations have been required to consolidate into one; Chinese societies have been required to assume responsibility for properties, institutions, and work directed hitherto by Western missionaries. This has not left the China Bible House unaffected. Fortunately, the representatives of the Japanese have been leaders of the Christian church in Japan. Bishop Abe and Mr. T. Matsuyama, who visited the United States in 1941, and with whom the Secretaries in New York conferred on the work of the Japan Bible Society, have both been in Shanghai for this purpose. They know well the aims of Bible Society work—Mr. Matsuyama being a director of the Japan Society.

Accordingly, during the first half of 1942 changes have gradually taken place. The foreign members of the executive committee of the China Bible House have withdrawn, and several new Chinese members added. They include Dr. T. C. Bau, Baptist, who is the general secretary of the Chekiang-Shanghai

A caravan transporting Scriptures by the ton rests by the roadside in China



Convention; Dr. Handel Lee, Methodist and president of Nanking Theological Seminary; Dr. C. S. Miao, religious education secretary of the National Christian Council; Mr. A. T. Y. Chow, and Rev. Z. H. Tong. On the request of the committee thus reconstituted, Rev. Dr. E. S. Yu, long its chairman,



Generalissimo and Madame Chiang Kai-shek are earnest Christians who read their Bibles daily. Their New Life Movement designed to construct the China of tomorrow is based upon the New Testament

was requested in February to become honorary general secretary—which he has kindly done. Thus, though the Chinese Bible Society in its full national form can not function yet, this important step is wholly in line with the desire of the American and British Societies for a strong sister society in China under Chinese leadership. To such an outcome they have been committed for more than ten years.

Under Dr. Yu's direction, arrangements have been made to conserve for Bible Society work the various Bible Houses in Occupied China by the transfer of their supervision from foreign personnel to the local Chinese Bible Society committees in Peiping and Tientsin, and the Bible House in Shanghai to the general committee. Aggressive distribution of Scriptures with further printing was reported to have been urged by the Japanese representatives, from whom it was anticipated that Bishop Abe, Mr. T. Matsuyama, and Mr. Y. Sakamoto would become official advisers to the China Bible House.

Another international connection has been made

in Shanghai by the invitation of the China Bible House Committee to the National Bible Society of Scotland's representative, Mr. George Henderson, that his work be, during the present emergency, united with the China Bible House, as there is no Chinese body with which this work is associated. Mr. Henderson has accepted to the satisfaction of all. This arrangement parallels the plan of union which has been taking place in Free China.

With Free China communication has been more frequent and recent, although it must go by air via India and Africa. The most recent word was that of September 19. It was most fortunate that the Chinese Scriptures sent to Rangoon from Shanghai—five and one half tons!—got started up the Burma Road before Burma was captured, and reached Kunming safely. There should, therefore, be sufficient whole Bibles to last until the coming summer. The New Testaments which were on the press in Rangoon were lost in its capture. Testaments and Gospels must be printed in Free China, and much of this printing has been going on in Chengtu. Bible Society offices are open in Chengtu, Chungking, Kunming, Kukong, Changteh, and Sian. Mr. J. C. F. Robertson, formerly of Manchuria, is now directing the work in Free China and eagerly recruiting volunteer workers to take up more intensively the distribution. Transportation is becoming exceedingly costly, and living expenses are skyrocketing; but the work will be pressed forward. Mr. Gordon Smith has gone on a needed furlough to Australia. Secretary Rao is carrying on in Kunming. Secretary Lin is suffering from overstrain and is resting near Chungking. Secretary Wong, who escaped from Hongkong, is opening up new work at Kukong in Kwangtung. These are very hard days for multitudes of people in China. God be praised for those who, in loyalty to his work, pour themselves out in faithful labors under great hardships. By such devotion his kingdom never fails to advance.

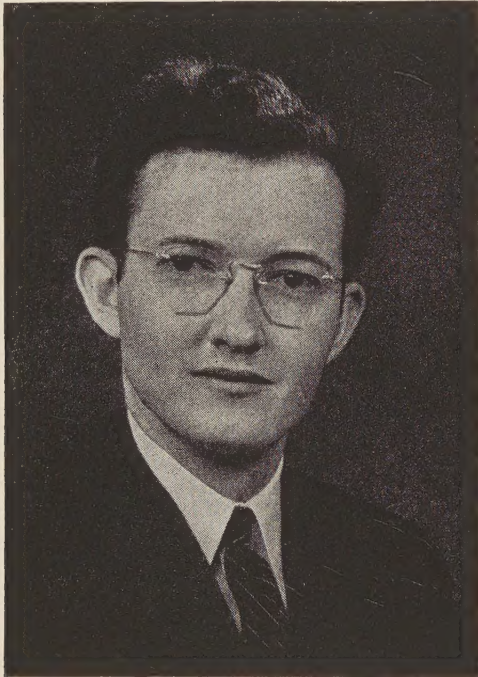
A Chinese pastor sending out voluntary distributors



Rich Land—Poor People

by Francis Carr Stifler

MISSISSIPPI County is the greatest cotton-growing county in America. Every fall in its county seat of Blytheville the National Cotton Picking Contest is held. In the summer of 1941, the county produced 237,000 bales, the magnificent crop standing in July higher than a tall man's head for as far as one could see. It is a county



Vladimir E. Hartman

of large plantations—the largest covering 59,000 acres. The plantations are covered by small share-cropper homes, usually of two rooms and always unpainted. The people are nearly all white. The average farm is from twelve to twenty-five acres. One can see row upon row of these homes about three hundred yards apart all over the county. One observer describes what he saw in these words. "I think it is the richest land in the world, and supports the poorest people in the world that are found in this country."

Into this county the American Bible Society, in cooperation with the Home Missions Council, sent last summer Rev. Vladimir E. Hartman to survey and meet the Bible needs of the people. Mr. Hartman intends to give his life to the rural ministry. He is himself a product of Oklahoma, and a graduate

of the Oklahoma Baptist University at Shawnee in that state. Graduating last June from the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, he is now studying under a fellowship in the University of North Carolina.

Mr. Hartman spent twelve weeks in Mississippi County, during which he drove his car more than 3,000 miles visiting over 1,500 homes. He writes:

Since this section is part of the "Bible Belt," I was assured by many, before I began my work, that every home would have a Bible. This was not true. There were dozens of homes where the people had no Bible at all. Most of the homes I visited had large families, and the children did not have Testaments and Bibles of their own.

Some idea of the extent of the need is revealed by the fact that in the 1,500 homes visited Mr. Hartman distributed 100 Bibles, 550 New Testaments, and hundreds of one and two-cent Gospel portions. These books were either sold at the cost price or less or given away if the people had no money. Mr. Hartman never left a home without making it possible for the people to have a Bible or a Testament if they did not already have one.

This fine, friendly young visitor was, however, more than a mere statistician and distributor. He



Every family visited was supplied with Gospel portions for the children

identified himself with the life of the people in every possible way. He preached fourteen times, spoke at revival meetings, worked in daily vacation Bible schools, and helped in the Negro pastors' summer institute. Many of his visits to the homes were made in company with the rural pastors, who introduced

him and guided him to the homes where there was a likelihood of the greatest need. He writes in further description of his work:

In visiting the homes I did not merely contact the people, but I encouraged them in their reading of the Bible, and tried to stimulate in them more interest for it. During my first week in the county there was a terrible cyclonic wind, which did much damage. Several houses were destroyed; while many others were moved off their foundations. Many of the people thought the wrath of God had been visited upon them, and felt that they should read the Bible much more than they had in previous days.

What Mr. Hartman did in Mississippi County, Arkansas, brings into clearest focus the basic purpose of the American Bible Society. The Society was instituted with the object that the Scriptures were effectively and persuasively put into the hands of people who otherwise might not have them, with no purpose of profit to the Society, but only that God's Word might abound more and more. The Bible Society is a missionary organization sending its emissaries out into the highways and byways here in the homeland, and to as many other lands as its circumstances will permit, that the knowledge of the Lord may cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

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Sowing the Word in Brazil

by L. M. Bratcher

Corresponding Secretary of the Brazilian Home Mission Board

SOME years ago the Brazilian Baptist Convention gave to its home mission board the task of carrying the Word into the great interior, where the workers had not been able to go except in very limited numbers, especially limited in view of the needs and opportunities. As the board began to study the task, it discovered that, while a definite work had been assigned, there were neither means nor men to accomplish the task. The zone that had been assigned was so vast, that thousands of dollars and hundreds of men would be needed to carry the good news of salvation to those who had been waiting so long.

What was to be done? How was the board to fulfill its mission? It could not send preachers; for there were no volunteers, nor was there the financial means with which to support them. After much prayer and discussion, it was decided to send the silent witness—the Word of God—to prepare the way for the men who would later go. Plans were made to sow the Word in all of the great interior, so that, when finally the messengers did arrive, they would find the seed that had been sown ready to be cultivated for the Master.

Through the years the plan has grown, until at present the home board is making a special campaign, not only in the far interior, but also among the churches, to put the Word of God into the hands of the people who have never read it before. Through the colporteurs, voluntary workers, home missionaries, churches, and organizations within the churches, Gospel portions are being distributed, and the precious seed is being sown in all Brazil. The board plans to furnish nine hundred tracts and at least two hundred Gospels to each Baptist church in

Brazil. These are to be distributed to people who are not believers at the present time, with a definite attempt to lead them to the Master.

During the one and one half months that this plan has been in full operation, more than twenty-five thousand Gospels and ninety thousand tracts have been distributed. These have gone to all parts of Brazil and to at least two neighboring countries. Many illustrations could be given of how the sown seed has found lodgment in the hearts of the people, has germinated, and today is giving abundant harvest. There is time for only one.

Many years ago, the corresponding secretary of the home mission board was going down one of the great rivers that flow through the heart of Brazil. The men who were rowing the canoe wanted to stop at one of the large sugar plantations to buy some whiskey—which they thought would help to keep off the dreaded fever; for we were entering the fever zone. The owner of the plantation received the secretary with great cordiality, and insisted that he visit his home where coffee was served. When they were ready to leave, and had gone down to the side of the river, the secretary discovered that the canoe had been filled with fruits, eggs, and other necessities for the long trip ahead. Knowing the people of the interior, he made no attempt to pay for the gifts; but, instead, offered some religious tracts to the man. He accepted them gladly, and as the canoe passed around a bend in the river, the man could be seen reading with great interest the Word that had been given to him.

Years passed by, and the secretary was again on the great Tocantins River. At noon a stop was made to prepare the meal. The place seemed strangely

familiar, and even more so the man who came down to the river bank to receive the travelers. After the Brazilian salutation had been given, the secretary remarked, "It seems as if I have met you before."

"I have the same feeling," replied the man. "Who are you?"

"I am Dr. Luiz," answered the secretary.

"Then I do know you," exclaimed the man. "You went down this river some six years ago. You gave me a Gospel tract, and in it a book called the Bible is mentioned several times. All these years I have been looking for a Bible. Now can you sell me one?"

Unfortunately, the secretary did not have a copy of the Bible; but he did have a New Testament. This was turned over to the man, and once more as the canoe turned the bend, the man was seen to be absorbed in the reading of his new treasure. Other years passed by, and finally word came that the man had been baptized and was telling the story of his conversion to all who would listen to him. The seed of the Word had been sown, and it had brought a wonderful harvest.

This story could be multiplied over and over again as the years have passed by. There is not space for that; but there is time to express our gratitude to the two organizations that have made possible our sow-

ing of the Word. These two organizations were—for they have been united into one in Brazil—the American and the British Bible Societies. Through all the years these two Societies have cooperated with the home mission board, furnishing Gospels at a great discount. Only because of this discount has it been possible to continue the work; for the resources of the board are most limited.

This year when the home board decided to put on a special campaign for the sowing of the Word, there was some concern in regard to the Gospels. Not nearly enough were on hand to supply the material for the campaign. An appeal was made to the United Bible Societies in Brazil, and the secretaries placed, at the disposal of the board, sufficient Gospels to guarantee the success of the work. Without this cooperation it would have been impossible to have carried on.

May we then express our gratitude to these two organizations—now *one* in Brazil—for the wonderful contribution they have made to our work? Through the years they have blessed the people of the earth with the Word, and we pray that they may be able to continue that holy service in the future; and that the Baptist people will more and more give their support and cooperation to the task.

Betty Lou

SOME weeks ago the Denver office received a letter which read in part: "My little girl, who will be twelve in December, was born with prenatal cataracts, and from the age of two has had to have them operated, or 'needled' as they call it, every twelve to eighteen months. As a result, she has some vision, and does remarkably well in public school,

Betty Lou's Bible is a big one, but it is her very own



where she is in the fifth grade. For the past year or more she has begged for a Bible she can read herself. Her sister, age ten, has a Bible and reads to Betty Lou; but I can understand the child's craving her very own copy which she can read."

We wrote describing the various Bibles with large, bold-faced type which the Society publishes for those with impaired vision. In response, Betty Lou's mother wrote asking that we send the one that is called in the Society's catalog CBo84.

Almost by return mail we received such a sweet letter from Betty Lou, that we want to share it with the readers of the RECORD. She wrote:

I want to tell you how much I love my Bible. I can see to read it very well. For the first time in my life, I can do my Sunday-school lesson by myself. I have fifty cents of my very own that I want to give you to help buy Bibles for some other people who have been waiting for one and wanting it like I did. It made mother and daddy very happy too; for they have so long wanted me to have a Bible that I could see.

I thank you again so very much. Love,

BETTY LOU

Later, Betty Lou's mother wrote: "I wish that you might have been here when the Bible came for Betty. It made me ache inside to think it meant that much to her, and she had been without it so long."

My Bible and I

Suggestions for Intermediate Study Classes as developed at Camp Crag, Brunswick, Ohio. All the materials mentioned will be gladly furnished to any class agreeing to devote five consecutive sessions of at least one hour each to their study. Requests should be sent to the "Bible Society Record," Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York City

by Charles E. Walden, Jr.

At our first meeting the pupils displayed the several posters, and set up the exhibit obtained from the headquarters of the American Bible Society.

We sought first to discover how we got our Bible, that is, the King James Version. We augmented the exhibit by the use of versions of the Bible borrowed from the library of the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology; namely, the Vulgate, the Douay, the Septuagint, Tyndale's Bible, the Hebrew Bible, and a Japanese New Testament.

We sought then to discover how the Bible is made available to most people in our country, emphasizing the work of the American Bible Society in getting the Bible to those people who cannot afford to pay for it, or to whom it is otherwise unknown. In this connection, we found out how people in many other nations came to know the Bible, calling attention to the more than a thousand translations of the Bible or portions of it that are available to mankind. Here, too, we reviewed the wonderful story of how translations are made.

Before dismissal, the first day, each pupil received copies of the leaflets and pamphlets which the American Bible Society had provided.

The second day was spent in working on a map the project furnished by the Bible Society, entitled "For God so loved the world." The project consisted in the pasting, on an outline map, of stickers carrying John 3: 16 translated into twenty different languages. The pupils colored the scenes depicted on each sticker as representative of each country.

As each pupil finished, he was directed to find John 3: 16 in his Bible, and indicate his impression of its meaning. When the instructor found that the pupil either could not or was not disposed to express a reaction, he explained the meaning of the oft-quoted passage.

Finally, the members of the group exchanged their ideas of the meaning of John 3: 16, and indicated their reactions to the work done by the American Bible Society which this map portrays.

At the beginning of the third session, the work on the maps was completed, and the class reviewed its discussion of John 3: 16, and, with the poster "And

Now in 1,000 Tongues" prominently displayed, stressed the universal nature of the work of the American Bible Society.

The pupils were given the "Read the Bible" seals issued by the American Bible Society, with the suggestion that they could be used on letters or as book-



Quest group with their Bible Society exhibit

marks in the same manner that library books are labeled.

The exhibit cards, portraying in different colors portions of the Bible printed in some of the languages into which it has been translated, were distributed for examination by the pupils. A source of genuine delight to the instructor was the opportunity to answer the barrage of questions which these cards provoked.

Most of the fourth period was occupied with the production of a play—"The Finding of the Law Book"—adapted by the instructor from 2 Kings 22: 23: 1-25. Following the play, the class exchanged impressions of this story taken from the Bible, and discussed its meaning and significance.

Following the fourth day's session, the instructor described to the entire camp, gathered in assembly, the manner in which we got our Bible, its nature, and the work of the American Bible Society in distributing it—this time dwelling upon the war emergency work of the American Bible Society.

The final period was spent in considering with another group studying "Working for World Peace" the nature and function of the Bible. Of invaluable

assistance here were the leaflets "The Bible and Youth" and "Worthwhile Ways of Reading the Bible."

The final moments of this closing session were spent in reading from the Bible portions which each pupil considered to suit his needs at the moment. This project was modeled after the camp's daily morning quiet hour, when each camper retired to his favorite spot to spend a few moments alone in prayer and silent meditation. The members found the leaflet "Where to Look in the Bible" an excel-

lent aid. Copies of it, of "The Bible and Youth," and of "Worthwhile Ways of Reading the Bible" were given to each member of both quest groups.

The course included little study of the Bible text; but it did set before the members of the class a conception of the Bible that, it was felt, would lead the campers to a more regular and earnest searching of its teachings. The Bible was seen as the world's book, essential reading for any man, whatever his language, if he hoped to find the meaning of life and attain the goal God had set for him.

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Scriptures for the Merchant Marine



ALTHOUGH the American Bible Society has supplied Bibles and Testaments to the men in the nation's services in every war since the war with Mexico, almost a century ago, it has never, until within the last few months, made any special effort to supply Scriptures to the Merchant Marine. In the

present war the members of the Merchant Marine, though not enlisted in the armed forces, have been exposed in the hazards of war to a greater degree than many enlisted men, and the casualty lists have lengthened since last January.

One of the difficulties of distribution to the Merchant Marine lies in the fact that there are no chaplains among these men. As a means of getting the books into the hands of the seamen, officers of the American Bible Society conferred with Mr. Lee C. Brown of the American Merchant Marine Library Association, which provides libraries for merchant ships. It has been arranged that one or two Bibles and a small supply of Testaments will be placed in each of the nine district offices of the Library Association—the Bibles for reference and the Testaments to be taken as personal property by any seamen who desire them. Mr. Brown estimates that, through these outlets, 2,000 Bibles and 32,000 Testaments will be adequate over a period of a year.

The Society plans to establish other outlets through such organizations as the Seamen's Church Institute, the American Seamen's Friend Society, the National Association of Seamen's Welfare Organiza-

tions, the United Seamen's Service, and the Merchant Marine Training Schools.

To meet the present demand, one thousand Bibles and 20,000 Navy New Testaments have been stamped with the insignia of the Merchant Marine reproduced on this page—the Testaments bearing on the front flyleaf a letter addressed to the men by Admiral E. S. Land as chairman of the United States Maritime Commission.

The interest of the seamen in this service has already become apparent, as revealed in a report of the Society's worker among service men, Mr. Harry A. Jaeger, who writes from the Marine Training Station located at St. Petersburg, Florida. Mr. Jaeger pays a well-deserved tribute to the seamen of the Merchant Marine. He writes:

It is these men who are the first to be attacked by Axis prowlers, because they are virtually unarmed, and because they constitute the jugular vein of our fighting front. It is these men who come back again and again, after having been torpedoed, to take up their place and go on, with someone filling in for a lost shipmate.

Here at the St. Petersburg training station these lads are prepared for their sea duty. In three months, landlubbers are taught signaling, navigation, and engineering, and a multitude of other things that are necessary for a modern "salt" to know. In the course of their training, or during their sea service these men have no chaplain or spiritual director. In the case of the St. Petersburg training station a minister from a St. Petersburg church comes each Sunday afternoon for a short service. But aboard the ships in active duty there is no provision for their spiritual welfare. Therefore, the 1,200 Testaments that have already been distributed at this station, have been most anxiously received by men who earnestly desire to know God and his Word. On several occasions as Testaments were offered, three or four hundred men would rise in mass to lay claim to the one or two hundred Testaments that were provided. Every supply has been exhausted immediately.

On one occasion, after Testament distribution, one of



A St. Petersburg pastor distributes Testaments to men of the Merchant Marine

the men came up and said, "I have been here two and a half months, and hoped that some day I could get a Bible or a Testament. This service tonight is just what I have been wanting. I never realized before what the Bible would mean to me; but now I see that I have a responsibility to God. I need to serve Christ. I have only one more Sunday before I will be gone, but I am going

to church this Sunday. You can count on me to read this Testament every day."

This newly inaugurated service to the men of the Merchant Marine is one of the obligations assumed by the Society in its service to the nation's defenders. The Society now provides specially bound Testaments for the Army, the Army Air Corps, the Navy, the Navy Air Force, the United States Marines, the Coast Guard, and the Merchant Marine. The demands are so great, that the Society's printers are unable to furnish the books fast enough to fill the orders, although the books are being delivered at the rate of about 10,000 each working day. The Society recently placed its second order for 2,000,000 of these Service Testaments, which will be paid for out of the War Emergency Fund. At the time of this writing the fund is far overspent. Have you made your contribution to it? The American Bible-loving public has, in every other war, loyally met this need. The Society is confident it will also this time. Send your gift, marked for the War Emergency Fund, to American Bible Society, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York City.

...

A New Testament and a Tradition



Harold H. Henderson

HAROLD H. HENDERSON, formerly a bank clerk in Sharpsville, is now with the Army Air Corps. He continually carries with him his greatly prized copy of the New Testament. His particular copy, besides being very useful for daily reading, also embodies an interesting tradition.

On September 14, 1861, at Union City, Pennsylvania, H. S. Holmes, a furniture manufacturer, purchased from the American Bible Society a service

Testament, which he gave to Lucius H. Erskine, a young employee of his who was just then leaving for service with the cavalry in the Federal Army.

Young Erskine carried the book through four years of battle, and retained possession until January 14, 1898, when he, in turn, gave it to an employee and member of his family, Edson P. Erskine, who signed up as an infantryman in the Spanish-American War.

Edson Erskine carried the little book home with him from Cuba, and kept it until 1918, when, in keeping with the tradition, he turned it over to an employee, Marion L. Greenland, who went overseas as a member of the Engineer Corps.

Home from France, the Testament was one of the prized possessions of Mr. Greenland, who hoped the book had changed hands for the last time.

That was twenty-four years ago, when Hitler was unheard of.

Last spring, when Harold Henderson signed up as an air cadet, he was presented with the book by Mr. Greenland, who was his employer in the bank at Sharpsville. "Needless to say," writes the young airman to Mr. D. M. Howell, the American Bible Society's representative in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, "I am very proud to be the one who is to carry this sacred volume, and will do the best I can."

With cavalryman, infantryman, engineer, and now aviator, this Testament has wellnigh run the gamut of the services and the wars which the country has engaged in; and its owner has always come home again. Harold Henderson intends to bring the Testament home once more, and, he is confident, for keeps this time.

Give Them the Facts

HE was an honorary chaplain to the Forces, serving the men within his parish, and on each occasion, before leaving his vicarage, he would slip a few Gospels and Testaments into his pocket. At the conclusion of his conversations, he would give invitations to the men to come and discuss with him any problems that they had, or ask him questions.

While moving about the room, one of the men came up to him, and said, "Well, Padre, you asked us to come to you, and I have come. There is very little that you can do for me, however; for I have very little time for this dope called religion."

"Well," said the padre, "that's a little bit strong, isn't it? You sound as though you were an atheist."

"I certainly am," said the man; "and not only that, I am a Communist too, and I know how hollow this religious stuff is."

When the padre began to discuss Communism and Christianity with the man, he found that mere argument was not getting them very far. Moreover, it was obvious that the man was very well read on the subject of Communism and on most social problems. "I read as much as I can," said the soldier, "and I think I can claim to have read everything that Karl Marx ever wrote."

"Have you read Mark's Gospel?" asked the padre.

"I have told you that I have read everything that Karl Marx ever wrote," replied the man.

The padre took from his pocket a copy of St. Mark's Gospel: "Since you seem to enjoy reading, would you be willing to read this little book? It would not take you very long, as you can see. It will perhaps help you to know something about Jesus other than what the Communists say about him."

"Thanks," said the soldier; "I will read it through, and let you know what I think about it."

A week later, the padre was there again, and the same man came up to him and said, "Padre, I am not going to apologize for what I said last week, because I believed it was true. But I would like to say thank you for letting me read that little book. I have read a good deal about Christ in Communist books, but I never knew the facts before. Why didn't I know them earlier? Have you any other books like this one?"

"Yes," said the padre; "here are a couple of others." He handed to the man the Gospels of St. Luke and St. John.

Several conversations between the padre and the man have since followed; and the soldier has now read most of the New Testament, with the result that he has been received into church membership.

(Continued from inside front cover)

And another in similar vein:

Thank you for the shipment. But already the stock of Bibles is exhausted. We have New Testaments, but not many Bibles, since they ask for them very often when we are going from one detachment to another. Please, if possible, send me more Bibles. . . . Thank you, and may God bless his Word.

A more comprehensive view of the religious life in the camp that has been stimulated by the reading of the Scriptures is given by a British prisoner, who, apparently, in civil life was a brigadier in the Salvation Army. He writes:

You ask news of the religious life of the camp, and I am glad to tell you of the little we have been able to accomplish. Services are held every Sunday evening, and the attendance has grown to 250. A choir is functioning with fair success. We hope soon that accommodations will be available for Bible Classes and week-day services. There is a great need for complete Bibles,—at least two hundred,—and shall be grateful for anything you can do to help us.

The extent of the work done for prisoners of war by the American Bible Society, not only through the office in Geneva, but through other agencies in other areas, may be gleaned from the figures released by the Society on November 1 last. In the two years and four months since the service began, there had been issued 11,471 Bibles, 60,531 Testaments, and 386,918 Gospel portions—a total of 458,920 volumes. The books contained Scriptures in twenty-eight different languages, and the cost of production, transportation, and handling in Geneva and elsewhere had mounted to \$44,252.78. This, like other items in the Society's War Emergency program, is not provided for in the regular budget, but is included in the Emergency Fund of \$306,200 which must be raised in the year ending July 1, 1943, if the Society is to meet the many needs created by the war. The entire amount can be secured, if every friend and contributor to the Society's regular work will send an additional generous gift designated for the War Emergency Fund.

Good News for Mexico

TWICE thirty-nine is seventy-eight. There are some thirty-nine tribes of Indians in Mexico for whom the "Wycliffe Bible Translators" are planning to furnish two translators each, making seventy-eight persons involved in this initial scheme. Until this year that goal seemed rather far off. But at the end of this summer's session of "Camp Wycliffe," a caravan set off from Norman, Oklahoma, where the school this year was held at the University of Oklahoma, with the most of the fifty additional workers needed to fill up the score. In fact, forty-two have now joined the devoted band previously at work on the Mexican program of Bible translation, leaving only eight needed for the four tribes that must still wait for their missionaries.

Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Townsend, the founders of the school, are overjoyed at seeing their dreams of a decade coming true. Their own consecrated enthusiasm for Bible translation is being reflected in the young lives that are now enlisted "for the duration" of the fight to put the gospel in the Indians' mother tongues. A former missionary to China, watching these young American Christians in the very act of scattering, in pairs, to their appointed fields, with meagre equipment so far as this world's goods go, writes: "It is all I can do to keep from tears as I watch them whole-heartedly put their all into their preparations . . . They will go any place, do anything, and be anywhere, when God calls. We have yet to see the far-reaching result of the Wycliffe movement."

NOTE: The story of the past summer's session of the Institute of Linguistics often called "Camp Wycliffe" will be found in the November 1942 issue of the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD.

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The Bible and Scrap Metal

THE American Bible Society is at present in the midst of the most extensive publishing program in its long history of over 125 years. This is partly due to the unprecedented demand for the Scriptures here in the United States both by civilians and the ever-increasing number of men in service. It is also due to the fact that the Society has received large orders from the British and Foreign Bible Society for books hitherto published by that Society. The Publication Committee of the Board is leaving no stone unturned to facilitate its manufacturing program; for the demand is likely to increase rather than decrease.

In compliance with Government Regulation No. M99 concerning scrap metal, the Board of Managers

at the November meeting authorized the release of twenty tons of copper, lead, and zinc in the form of Scripture plates, copper halftones and type, to help meet the present shortage of those metals. The material thus consigned to the scrap pile, besides 3,000 pounds of foundry type and several thousand copper halftones, consisted principally of 34,726 pages of plates and mouldings including Bibles, Testaments, and portions in English and thirteen other languages. None of these plates would ever have been used again in the Society's work—some of them dating back to 1858, and all of them in older versions or outdated formats.

When news of this action was released to the press, a false interpretation was put upon the action by certain reporters, which brought some anxious inquiries to the editors' desks. In none of the Society's deliberations on the matter was anything said about turning this metal into implements of war. The simple fact is that the Society's failure to comply with the Government's Regulations would have meant that no new plates or photographic cuts could have been made for the Society's use. It is the determined purpose of the Board of Managers that no obstacle to its present publishing program shall be left, if it is possible to remove it.

• •

A Chaplain Writes—

NOT a day passes at the Bible House that does not bring orders for ever-increasing thousands of Testaments and Bibles for the men in service. The requests from chaplains during the week before this item went to press totalled 25,900 copies. Many orders bring responses like the one below, received by V-mail from a chaplain in England.

He writes:

Your second shipment of New Testaments arrived safely this past week. I take it that you received my acknowledgment of the first shipment of 500 New Testaments that arrived shortly after I came to England. Most of the chaplains who are here neither brought any with them, nor had any on order; and there is quite a shortage of New Testaments. I shall share the extra New Testaments that I have been so graciously supplied with, with my brother chaplains, so they can all be placed where they will be used. I have already given each of two chaplains a bundle of one hundred copies.

I want to express again my sincere appreciation for the splendid work you are doing, and I hope that some day I may show my appreciation in a more tangible way. I have mentioned your work and urged its support in my letters to friends and relatives in the "States," and shall continue to do so.



Editorial Comment



BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution of the Holy Scriptures

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to Francis Carr Stifler, Editorial Secretary, Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York



VOL. 88 JANUARY 1943 No. 1

TO EDITORS: *The Bible Society Record* invites reprinting of its articles in whole or in part. Its contents are not copyrighted.

THE ministry of education of Turkey has recently become interested in improving the quality of translations. An inquiry by a German professor as to whether the editor of the ministry's magazine "Tercüme" would accept an article on Biblical translations, was received with favor; and the American Bible Society's subagent in Istanbul, Mr. F. Lyman MacCallum, submitted an article, which has been published. It contains a brief description of the contents of the Bible; then references to the translations of the early centuries and the more recent missionary translations; and then a more detailed account is given of translations into Turkish, and something of the method of preparing the new roman letter revision of 1941. The Lord's Prayer is then quoted from various versions, and some notable passages from the new revision are cited.

It becomes increasingly evident that the new translation of the Turkish Bible has an excellent and vigorous style, which is being received with enthusiasm.

THE British and Foreign Bible Society has recently elected as its president Viscount Sankey, who was at one time Lord Chancellor. For years Viscount Sankey has taken a

deep interest in the work of the society, having published in 1938 a pamphlet entitled "The Splendor of the Bible."

MANY churches will be studying about missions in Latin America during this year. As an aid in this study, the American Bible Society has just published a fifty-six-page booklet entitled "With the Bible in Latin America Today," which may be obtained at ten cents a copy.

REV. J. E. DAVIS is manager of the Baptist Publishing House in El Paso, Texas. In addition, he serves the little Baptist church at La Mesa. Recently, Dr. Davis sent the Society a check for \$11.55, saying:

My duties here make it impossible for me to be a real pastor; but I preach to them every Sunday, and direct their activities to the best of my ability.

Last Sunday I gave about two minutes to a statement of your work and claims on Baptists for support. I asked the congregation to join me in a small offering, and here it is. The church has only a few members—maybe fifty resident now. None are rich. They put their offerings in envelopes designated, and this is the amount the treasurer found in the offering—general offering—designated for you.

If only every church would do as well, you would have millions with which to carry on your great work.

If the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention alone would average as well as this, that one denomination would contribute over \$200,000. Why not suggest to your pastor that he take two minutes some Sunday, as Dr. Davis did, to commend the work of the American Bible Society.

THE morning mail at the Society's Dallas office recently brought the following letter:

Enclosed find Five Dollars in check for a donation to the American Bible Society.

Some fifty years ago a lady handed me a New Testament, in New York, when I came to this country. This book helped me to find the way of life better. I never will forget it, and in appreciation I am now sending this offering to help somebody else to find it.

WHAT'S in the name "American"? For one man this:

While displaying his books in a backward village in the vicinity of Hama, Syria, seventy-five miles from the hospital, a colporteur was threatened by a man who found in the Gospel the phrase "Christ, the Son of God." Soon the crowd was in an uproar. An old sheik, when told the cause of the excitement, was informed that the missionary was from the American Bible Society. "Is that like the American Hospital?" he asked. When the colporteur answered that they both carried the same message, the sheik assured the crowd that they need not fear the Word. He told them of his visit to the hospital, and the spirit of love he had experienced. Soon the colporteur had sold his books to the very people who had threatened his life.

November Meeting of the Board

THE seventh stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and twenty-seventh year was held at the Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York City, on Thursday, November 5, 1942, at 3:30 p.m., Vice President William Jay Schieffelin in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Mr. John Binns.

The minutes of the sixth stated meeting of the year were approved.

The minutes of the various standing committees were presented and approved, and their recommendations adopted.

A grant of 2,000 Bulu Bibles to the American Presbyterian Mission on the sale and distribution plan was approved.

The following consignments to the Foreign Agencies were reported:

August	Volumes	Value
Latin America	139,745	\$3,393.31
Near East	4,374	939.06
September	144,119	\$4,332.37
Latin America	18,078	\$2,263.14

The issues from the Bible House during the month of August were 314,905 volumes and during the month of September, 548,234 volumes.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Thailand (Siam)—Rev. Robert O. Franklin, (on furlough) 703 Sathorn Rd., Bangkok.
China—Rev. W. H. Hudspeth, M.A., Bible House, 58 Hongkong Road, Shanghai.
Japan Bible Society—Mr. T. Tanaka, General Secretary, Bible House, 2 Shichome, Ginza, Tokyo, Japan.

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